

its own habits can excuse itself into complete disaster".

With the end of the totalitarian threat, with the remarkably changed international circumstances, the danger to the United States has visibly receded, and there is little likelihood of a "complete disaster". Nonetheless, despite the lessened danger, the possibility remains of cumulative small setbacks and the erosion of our position. We may ignore such possibilities—and it is unlikely to be fatal. Still the rules are quite simple. To be a leader, a nation must sustain its credibility.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you have been more than patient. I must draw to a close—and must also offer a few conclusions.

During the Cold War the stakes were immense: the preservation of the Western democracies and, if I may say so, the substantial preservation of Western Civilization itself of which the United States was the security mainstay. (I say this despite the probable assault of the multiculturalists.) But with the end of the cohesion and menace of the Soviet empire, the stakes have now shrunk. The United States, the world's most powerful nation, is in a sense free to be capricious, to be irresponsible. Yet, it will not soon fall into direct and serious danger. Nonetheless, there are restraints—and there are prospective consequences of our actions. The price of capriciousness will inevitably be a loss of credibility—and of our position of leadership.

While the United States is a powerful country, it is not all-powerful. At the close of the Nineteenth Century, Secretary of State Richard Olney could declaim during the Venezuelan dispute with Great Britain that the United States' "word was fiat on this continent". Whatever we may wish, it is *not* fiat around the world. To pretend otherwise will make us look foolish. The focus of our foreign policy concern, as Paul Nitze has said, should be "what kind of relations among the leading powers". We must be cautious about involving ourselves in matters of lesser consequences. We should be restrained in word as well as deed. The United States is not obliged to comment on everything. Meddling in issues in which our interests are only tangentially involved, nagging others about their defects, real or imaginary, may make us feel good for the moment. It is not the road to successful or long-term leadership.

To provide long-term leadership, other nations must understand that we do not speak casually or loosely. When we do choose to make a commitment, other nations need to know that we can and probably will live up to it. Always remember: leadership is not an inheritance; it must be earned anew, each decade, each year.●

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA COMER

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Kentuckian who has been selected for induction into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame. Mrs. Martha Comer of Maysville, KY, is devoted to her profession, to the Ledger-Independent, formerly the Daily Independent, and to her community.

Martha Comer was born in 1906, the same year that her father founded the Daily Independent. It is not surprising that Martha displayed her journalistic qualities at a young age. She served as the editor of the school annual at Maysville High School. Upon her graduation from high school she began

working on the editorial staff of the Daily Independent. She assumed the duties as editor in 1935, although her name did not appear as editor until 1941.

In 1968 the Daily Independent was sold to the Maysville Publishing Corp. and became the Ledger-Independent. At this time Martha became the editor and was responsible for publishing both the morning and afternoon editions. Although Mrs. Comer retired on January 7, 1977, she continued to remain on as an editorial consultant. For many years she continued to write a daily column and editorials. And to this day, Martha Comer still writes editorial commentary two or three times a week for the Labor-Independent.

Mrs. Comer's editorial involvement allowed her to become actively involved with her community. She has campaigned tirelessly for many organizations and causes, such as advocating public policy and teaching in the literacy program.

Mr. President, I would like my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Martha Comer, a new inductee into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame. I am positive that Mrs. Comer will continue to display the great qualities in which she has in the past. I know that her community appreciates her involvement and dedication.●

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS GRIFFIN

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dennis Griffin, a resident of Bowling Green, KY, who is being recognized as one of the top local developers in the Nation. Mr. Griffin is 1 of 10 economic developers who received a leadership award from the American Economic Development Council.

Mr. Griffin has been president of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce since 1986, the same year he moved to Kentucky. Since taking over as president of the chamber of commerce the local economy has soared. Mr. Griffin is best described by Bowling Green Mayor Johnny Webb in a recent article in the Daily News. Mayor Webb said,

Things were not going too well in Bowling Green. It had been some time since we had recruited a new industry. It was almost like a lightbulb coming on when (Griffin) came in and got his feet on the ground. He is the catalyst to development.

Mr. President, during the last 9 years, Mr. Griffin has worked hard to develop the region. He is responsible for starting 56 new companies, and establishing 6,000 new jobs; an investment of more than \$400 million in the community. But that's not all, Mr. Griffin also worked hard to help 72 existing industries expand, which created an additional 2,500 jobs, investing another \$100 million in the community.

Mr. Griffin, just like the Energizer Bunny, is still going strong even after 9 years of service. In the last year alone, 10 new plants have decided to

call Bowling Green their home and 9 companies have expanded.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding Kentuckian. I think that all will agree that through his hard work and dedication for his community, Mr. Griffin proves that he truly deserves the honor of being one of the country's top local developers.●

MORNING BUSINESS

ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 43, H.R. 421, the Cook Inlet Region bill, that the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the Senate is about to take up H.R. 421, the Alaska Native Claims Act Amendment Act of 1995. I wish to take a few moments to describe H.R. 421 and importance of passing the bill this evening.

On March 15, 1995, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources unanimously reported nearly identical legislation for consideration by the full Senate.

The bill allows the Cook Inlet Region Incorporated Native corporation, called CIRI, to consider creating a system to buy back the stock of willing sellers, provided that stockholders vote to set up such a system. It will serve as a test for an alternate system of stock distribution that could later be expanded for use by any of the State's Native regional corporations.

The goal of H.R. 421 is simple: to provide a responsible middle ground so that shareholders will have access to the capital value of their stock, while preserving the Native control and ownership of the ANCSA corporations.

Originally under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Native shareholders were prevented from selling their stock for 20 years. This was to give the corporations time to mature. As part of a series of 1991 amendments to the corporations, Congress changed the law, at the request of the Natives, so that stock restrictions on alienability—the right of Natives to sell their shares—automatically continued unless and until the shareholders of a corporation voted to remove them.

H.R. 421 will provide another alternative. Shareholders will be able to sell their stock back to the corporation, helping preserve Native control if: First the corporation's board votes to participate; second, the majority of the entire membership of the corporation votes to permit buybacks; and third, if